COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the issues, tools, and methods involved in interpreting the Bible in English and applying it appropriately. It is designed for those who will not be taking Greek and Hebrew or other courses in OT and NT interpretation. OT/NT 517 is a required course for students in the MA-Christian Leadership, MA-Christian Counseling, MA-Christian Ministries, and the hybrid MAR degree programs. Prerequisites: OT 500 and NT 501.

PURPOSES OF THE COURSE

1. To equip the student to interpret the Bible soundly in English using basic exegetical methodology, appropriate reference tools, and secondary sources (cf. articles 1-2 of the seminary’s mission statement).

2. To introduce the student to tools for basic biblical exegesis and research related to the Bible in English (cf. articles 1-2 of the seminary’s mission statement)

3. To help the student to understand the exegetical and interpretive issues relating to the various literary forms/genres in the Bible. (Cf. articles 1-3, 5 of the seminary’s mission statement)

4. To equip the student to apply Scripture to his or her own life and to issues in the contemporary church and world based on solid exegesis of the ancient text. (Cf. articles 1-6 of the seminary’s mission statement)

REQUIRED TEXTS


OTHER REQUIRED RESOURCES

- Andy Hubert, “Introduction to Bracketing” Course Lectures. Biblearc.com. [Students can enroll in this lecture series using this link, but should wait to do so until ready to begin viewing the lectures since a 2 month subscription to Biblearc.com is included and will be most valuable when engaging the material: https://www.biblearc.com/web/enroll/?course=235] (25$)

COURSE STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS (All papers should be typed, double-spaced in Times New Roman font size 12, with pagination, and one-inch margins)

The class lays a foundation for interpreting and applying the Bible in English, bringing attention to issues of lexical meaning, grammar and syntax, logical and narrative structure, history and culture, rhetoric, literary techniques, theology, application, etc. Special attention will be given to tracing a biblical passage’s flow of thought and detecting its main logical point with a view toward grasping its original intent and thinking God’s thoughts after him. The philosophy of this course follows the old maxim, “If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day, but if you teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime.” Thus, the course does not only seek to communicate knowledge about the exegesis and meaning of various biblical texts (giving fish to students), but even more to equip students to exegete the text of any book of the Bible for themselves in a basic way (teaching students to fish). Completion of regular assignments, preparedness for class, and class participation are all important parts of this process. Late work is subject to reduced credit at the professor’s discretion. The final date assignments may be submitted has been set by the seminary as May 4, 2015 (April 24, 2015 for May graduates). Only the registration office can give an extension beyond these dates. Although there is no specific percentage assigned to class attendance and participation, it can affect the student’s grade at the discretion of the professor.

1. In preparation for each class session, the student is to complete any required reading and written assignments that may be assigned in the course schedule by the class session for which it is listed. This course is designed to teach methodology and not simply memorized material. Therefore, completion of written assignments intended to give the student experience in practicing exegetical and applicational methodology is extremely important for benefitting from the course. Moreover, having written assignments done on time is important for being able to discuss them in class and so to gain maximum benefit from them. The bulk of the work of the course will be reading the main textbook, completing assignments in the accompanying workbook, and logical analysis assignments. However, the amount of reading for this course is lower than some other courses in the seminary curriculum in order to allow for more work in the area of exegetical and applicational practice.

2. The student will take a final exam.

3. The student will complete the assignments in the Grasping God’s Word Workbook assigned in the course schedule.

4. The student will complete 8 logical analyses/brackets of biblical passages as indicated in the course schedule. An articulation of a subject, complement, exegetical idea, and homiletical idea for the passage must be included with each logical analysis.

5. The student will submit a reading report indicating what reading was completed for the course and whether or not each reading was completed on time. Please use the report form included later
in this syllabus. Reading that is completed late will be subject to a 10% credit penalty at the professor’s discretion.

6. The student will prepare a short exegesis paper (about 6-10 pages + appendices) on a biblical passage of his/her choice and the professor’s approval. The paper will systematically analyze a complete biblical passage in the light of its literary, historical-cultural, and theological context, its grammatical, logical, and rhetorical structure, its use of important words and concepts, its main idea and key themes, and its relevance in its original context and in our own. The student is to choose the passage for the paper by the second class session.

7. An additional 9 lectures and 8 assignments (the 8 assignments are discussed in # 4 above) have been assigned outside of class and will replace 3.5 hours of class meeting time spread out over the course’s 7 class sessions (so class will normally end at 9:30 pm rather than 10:00 pm). This additional work also allows the professor discretion to drop a certain amount of additional class time if deemed advisable.

Note about Plagiarism:
All use of sources in written work must be properly indicated. Read GCTS’s policy on plagiarism (see http://www.gordonconwell.edu/sites/default/files/hmreg_plagiarism.pdf) carefully and remember that use of authors’ words is to be indicated with quotation marks and a footnote, and the use of their ideas but not their words is to be indicated with a footnote. For further information see http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml.

Course Evaluation

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<tr>
<th>Class requirement</th>
<th>Grade percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Exams (2 at 10% each)</td>
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<td>2. Workbook assignments</td>
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<td>3. Logical analyses</td>
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<td>4. Reading Report</td>
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<td>5. Exegesis paper</td>
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100%

COURSE OUTLINE/PROPOSED SCHEDULE (subject to change at professor’s discretion)

Readings and other assignments are to be completed by the date/class session for which they are listed. GGW = the Grasping God’s Word textbook; WB = the Grasping God’s Word Workbook; LA = logical analysis/bracket; AS = assignment(s). Since class meetings do not start until half way into the semester but the course carries the same amount of work as courses that meet for more class sessions, assignments begin before this course’s classes start meeting. Work assigned prior to the start of classes is to be handed in at the first class meeting.]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings and Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>February 26</td>
<td>GGW, Appendix 1 and chs. 1-2</td>
<td>GGW, Appendix 1 and chs. 1-2 (in that order)</td>
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<td>WB, chs. 1-2 (all AS)</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>March 5</td>
<td>GGW, chs. 3-5</td>
<td>GGW, chs. 3-5 (AS 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 4-1, 4-2; 5-2)</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>March 12</td>
<td>GGW, chs. 6-8</td>
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<td>WB, chs. 6-8 (all AS except 6-6 and 8-3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Date</td>
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| 1   | Thursday March 19 | Introduction to the course and its objectives  
Logical analysis  
The exegetical and homiletical ideas  
Overview of the Exegetical-Hermeneutical process | GGW, chs. 9-11  
WB, chs. 9-11 (all ch. 9 AS except 9-6; all ch. 10 AS; none in ch. 11)  
Note: Give the ch. 9 WB AS a try. If you feel the need for help from the instructor with them, you are welcome to obtain that in our first class meeting and then pass them in at our second class. |
| 2   | Thursday March 26 | Inspiration  
Canon  
Translations  
Historical-Cultural Context | GGW, chs. 12-13  
WB, AS 4-6, 8-3, 9-6, adapting them to the passage that the student chooses for the exegesis paper  
WB, chs. 12-13 (AS 12-2, 13-1 or 13-2, and 13-3)  
Bracketing Lectures 1 and 2  
LA of James 1:2-4  
LA of James 1:5-8 |
| 3   | Thursday April 2 | Mid-Term covering GGW, chs. 1-9  
History of Interpretation  
Literary Context | GGW, chs. 14-15  
WB, chs. 14-15 (all AS; except 15-3)  
Bracketing Lectures 3 and 4  
LA of James 1:9-11  
LA of James 1:12-15 |
| 4   | Thursday April 9 | Lexical Issues  
Meaning and Application  
Exegetical Fallacies | GGW, chs. 16-17  
WB, chs. 16-17 (all AS)  
Bracketing Lectures 5 and 6  
LA of James 1:16-18  
LA of James 1:19-21 |
| 5   | Thursday April 16 | Exegeting and applying NT epistles  
Exegeting and applying the Gospels and Acts | GGW, chs. 18-19  
WB, chs. 18-19 (AS 18-1 or 18-2; any one ch. 19 AS)  
Bracketing Lectures 7 and 8  
LA of James 1:22-25  
LA of James 1:26-27 |
| 6   | Thursday April 23 | Exegeting and applying Revelation  
Exegeting and applying OT narrative  
Exegeting and applying OT Law | GGW, chs. 20-22  
WB, chs. 20-22 (all ch. 20 AS; any one ch. 21 AS; 22-1)  
Bracketing Lecture 9  
Exegesis paper and reading report due for May graduates only. |
| 7   | Thursday April 30 | Final Exam covering GGW, chs. 10-22  
Exegeting and applying OT Poetry  
Exegeting and applying OT Prophecy  
Exegeting and applying OT Wisdom | Exegesis paper and reading report due. If not turned in at the last class (April 30th), these must be mailed to the professor’s address listed on the first page of this syllabus, put in the mail/postmarked no later than May 4th. |
|     | Tuesday May 4   |                                                                                             |                                                                                  |
Reading Report  Name:__________________________

(If a reading was only partially completed, list the number of pages actually completed in the “Completed?” column. If all reading was completed and on time, the student may simply state that rather than filling out each box below.)

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<tr>
<th>Date Due</th>
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<td>April 16</td>
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